

MAR 08 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING APRIL AS ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS MONTH IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, April is National Organ Donor Awareness Month; and

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3 WHEREAS, organ donation is the gift of a kidney, heart,
4 lung, liver, pancreas, or other vital organ for medical
5 transplantation to others in serious need; and

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7 WHEREAS, organ transplantation is regarded as a standard
8 medical treatment for a number of medical conditions and
9 diseases, including chronic kidney disease, and tens of
10 thousands of individuals receive life-saving organ transplants
11 each year; and

12
13 WHEREAS, survival rates following an organ transplant are
14 impressive, including one-year survival rates of ninety-six
15 percent for kidney transplant recipients, more than eighty-two
16 percent for heart transplant recipients, and more than eighty
17 percent for liver transplant recipients; and

18
19 WHEREAS, donated vital organs from one person can save the
20 lives of up to eight people in need of an organ transplant; and

21
22 WHEREAS, nationwide, an average of twenty people die each
23 day due to a lack of available organs for transplant; and

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25 WHEREAS, despite the growing number of successful
26 transplant operations each year, more than one hundred thousand
27 people nationwide remain on organ donation waiting lists; and

28
29 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, more than four hundred thirty people of
30 various ethnicities are currently awaiting life-saving organ
31 transplants; and
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1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's population is composed of sixty percent
2 Asian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and African-American
3 individuals, and these ethnic populations are at the greatest
4 risk for end-stage organ failure; and
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6 WHEREAS, the majority of transplant candidates in Hawaii
7 are awaiting a donor kidney, and the majority of the transplant
8 operations performed in Hawaii are kidney transplants; and
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10 WHEREAS, individuals may become organ donors by registering
11 with a state donor registry, indicating "yes" to organ donations
12 on their driver's license, expressing a desire to become an
13 organ donor to family, friends, physicians, and faith leaders,
14 and filling out and signing an organ donor card; and
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16 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, individuals may easily register to
17 become organ donors via the Donate Life Hawaii Registry or at a
18 county motor vehicle registry location; and
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20 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, there is a great need to raise
21 awareness regarding the importance of and need for organ
22 donation; now, therefore,
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
25 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
26 Representatives concurring, that the Legislature recognizes
27 April as Organ Donor Awareness Month in Hawaii; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all residents of Hawaii are
30 encouraged to learn more about kidney disease, its risks, and
31 healthy behaviors that can reduce the risk of chronic kidney and
32 kidney-related diseases such as diabetes; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all residents of Hawaii are
35 encouraged to learn more about organ donation and discuss organ
36 donation with their families, physicians, and religious leaders;
37 and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
40 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
41 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
42 Representatives, the President and Chief Executive Officer of



1 Legacy of Life Hawaii, and the President and Chief Executive
2 Officer of the National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii.
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